

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF MARCH 9TH, 1938.

The Board of Public Works met in the offices of the Board of Public Works, Union Trust Building, Baltimore, on Wednesday, March 9th, 1938.

Present -

Harry W. Nice, Governor.
Wm. S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller.
Hooper S. Miles, Treasurer.

Mr. Blakeman, State Budget Director,
attended the meeting.

The members of the Board of Managers of Maryland Training School for Colored Girls, Glen Burnie, Maryland, appeared before the Board and requested authority to enter into a contract with Morrison Bros., Bethesda, Maryland, for the construction of a new Administration Building and for alterations and repairs to present existing buildings, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Albert I. Cassell, Architect, in the sum of \$98,939.00.

There was considerable discussion relative to this work, because of a protest made by the Price Construction Company against the award of the contract to Morrison Brothers, but because of the failure of the Price Construction Company to comply with the specifications of the Architect in the submission of allowances for certain work to be eliminated, and because of the conclusions reached by the Architect and the Board of Managers of the School, that the work represented by the eliminations for which the Price Construction Company had made no allowances would have a value of approximately \$15,000.00, causing the bid of the Price Construction Company to somewhat exceed the specific bid of Morrison Brothers of \$98,939, the request of the School that the contract be given to Morrison Bros. was approved by the Board of Public Works.

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Two Delegations appeared before the Board in connection with the question of the proposed State Office Building in Annapolis. One Delegation, headed by Doctor Robert S. G. Welch, presented a petition in opposition to the use of Randall Court as a site for the building. The other Delegation recommended the use of Randall Court, although they recommended moving the building to face either on College Avenue or Prince George Street.

Both Delegations were in agreement that they would favor the College Avenue site rather than take the site selected on the Circle, between Maryland Avenue and East Street, or the Randall Court site, with the inconvenience and annoyance to be caused to the owners and business persons occupying those sites, as well as the expense involved.

Mrs. Sara Sutherland Green read the following statement to the Board, and requested that it be made part of the record -

SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF COLONIAL WARS
STATE OF MARYLAND

Gentlemen -

I appear before you this morning to protest officially, the purchase of the Randall-Bordley House for an office building. The organizations which have appointed me to speak for them are -

The Company for the Restoration of Colonial Annapolis
The Maryland State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, with 29 chapters in the various counties of the State, ranging from Cumberland to Salisbury
The Maryland State Society, Daughters of Colonial Wars, with a state wide membership, of which Mrs. Frank Madison Dick of Cambridge is President

and

The Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, which has a state wide membership.

They wish to go on record as opposing the sale of the aforesaid building - first - because of its antiquity, beauty and excellent state of preservation

2ndly - because of its historical value.

The house was the property of John Johnson, Chancellor, Chief Justice of the Judicial Court, and in May 21, 1796, his son, Reverdy Johnson, US. Senator and Minister to England was born there. John Johnson sold the house in 1811-

The third reason why it is wanted to be kept is that the City of Annapolis draws many tourists during the year, who come to see its ancient and historical buildings - this is one of its most valuable ones.

Gentlemen - on behalf of these four organizations, I ask you to look elsewhere for a site for the proposed office building.

/s/ Sara Sutherland Green

The Board authorized the Secretary to contact Mr. James A. Walton and Mr. Joseph D. Lazenby, and request those gentlemen to secure from the owners of property in the College Avenue site prices on the property which the State would need if that site is to be used for the office building.

The Board agreed to meet in the Governor's Office at Annapolis on Tuesday, March 15th, 1938, at three o'clock, P.M., to discuss further the question of the State Office Building in Annapolis, and to consider the reports made by the Public Service Commission and Mr. Charles F. Lee, relative to the valuations placed on the land and improvements on the site on State Circle, heretofore selected by the Board for the new State Office Building.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board the following letter from George L. Hall, Acting Chief Engineer, relative to the new water filtration plant at Montrose School for Girls -

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

March 4th, 1938.

Mr. Joseph O. McCusker, Secretary,
Board of Public Works,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Mr. McCusker:-

This office is preparing plans and specifications for a water filtration plant to be constructed at the Montrose School for Girls, Woodensburg, with funds supplied by the last Legislature, supplemented by a grant from the PWA, aggregating for this project a total of \$15,000.

In view of the fact that the PWA requires us to indicate in the specifications a scale of wages for the types of labor to be employed on this work, we are writing to you at this time to ask your advice and interpretation of the following situation.

The cost of the plant was estimated by us several years ago based upon normal material costs and the prevailing rate of wages paid to labor for water works and sewerage construction projects. At the school there is now under construction a gymnasium building, and at other State institutions buildings of

various types are also being constructed using a wage scale which, we understand, was established at a joint meeting last summer by the Board of Public Works, labor union representatives and local architects. This wage scale varies from 50 to 100 percent more than that paid by contractors on waterworks and sewerage projects. The lower rate is now in use on similar PWA projects in Baltimore City, the Baltimore County Metropolitan District and other areas in the State. The difference between the two wage scales will, we have been advised by several reputable contractors, increase the construction cost of the water filtration plant by at least 25 percent.

We are wondering, therefore, if the wage scale as adopted by the Board of Public Works last summer, is applicable only to building construction and not to improvements such as are discussed herein.

The first of next week, if agreeable to you, I should like to have our Mr. McComas visit your office and discuss this situation in further detail to ascertain whether the Board of Public Works would consider the use of the current or lower wage scale for the water supply improvements at Woodensburg, thereby affecting a saving of approximately three to four thousand dollars.

Yours very truly,

/s/ George L. Hall,
Acting Chief Engineer.

JRM/M

Mr. McComas, representing Mr. Hall, and Mr. Alan Burton, representing Mr. Henry P. Hopkins, Architect, discussed with the Board the question of minimum wage rates to be used in connection with the construction of the water filtration plant.

It was agreed that hourly rates of 40¢ for unskilled labor, 60¢ for semi-skilled labor and 90¢ for skilled labor be established on the project. These rates were agreed upon because they seem to be those in effect on similar projects in the territory in which Montrose School is located.

The Board approved a lease between the County Commissioners of Frederick County and the Unemployment Compensation Board, covering offices to be used by the Maryland Re-Employment Service, in the premises known as the Seminary Building, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland, containing 1300 square feet, for the term of one year, beginning on the 1st day of January, 1938 and ending on the 31st day of December, 1938, at the annual rental of \$900.00, payable in equal monthly installments of \$75.00 on the 1st day of each and every month in advance.

The Board approved the request of Mr. F. W. Besley, State Forester, contained in his letter of February 4th, 1938, for authority to purchase 200 acres of land at \$1.50 per acre, from the Caroline M. Smith estate in Garrett County, Maryland.

The Board also approved the acceptance of a gift of 150 acres from Charles H. Linville and wife, of Baltimore, to the State, to be added to the Swallow Falls State Forest, as set forth in Mr. Besley's letter of February 4th, 1938.

The Board directed that its appreciation of the generosity of the donors of this land be noted on the records of the meeting.

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The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to the Governor by C. Wilbur Miller, Shawan House, Cockeysville, Maryland, offering for sale to the State a very fine rug, which had cost Mr. Miller \$7,100, but which he was willing to sell to the State at a price of \$2,000, the rug to be used in the Executive Mansion.

The members of the Board stated that since they do not have any funds at their disposal for the use of purchasing the rug, it was not possible to consider Mr. Miller's offer.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter from the Conservation Department, asking for authority to sell the Boat "Anne Arundel", for which an offer of \$100.00 had been made, the boat being of no further use to the Conservation Department.

The Board authorized the sale of the boat.

The Board approved the expenditure of an additional sum of \$30.00, in connection with painting work in the State House, covering some painting in the Dome, which had not been contemplated in the contract given to Morrow Bros. sometime ago.

The Board considered a letter addressed to it by Mr. B. B. Wills, president, Tolchester Lines, Inc., relative to the appropriation payable for the maintenance of a Ferry Schedule between Baltimore and the Eastern Shore. The facts are fully set forth in Mr. Will's letter of February 28th, 1938, addressed to the Comptroller.

The Board decided the appropriation for the maintenance of a Ferry Schedule between Baltimore and the Eastern Shore makes necessary the daily operation of a Ferry between those points. Because of the fact that the Tolchester Lines, Inc. had not maintained a daily schedule, it would not be possible for the Board to authorize full payment of the appropriation.

The Board agreed, however, to pay the Tolchester Lines, Inc. on a prorata basis for the days on which the Ferry was operated.

The Board approved the request of the Board of State Aid and Charities that it be permitted to continue to occupy the office space used by it up to this time in the Calvert Building until March 31, 1939, at the annual rental of \$6,636.00.

*St. Dept.
Public
Welfare*

A letter addressed to the Board by Mr. Joseph C. Gardner, Landscape Architect, relative to landscape work in connection with the new State Office Building, was considered.

The Board suggested that the letter be filed for future reference, since no consideration could be given at this time to landscape work.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Board a letter addressed to it under date of February 28th, 1938, by the State Roads Commission, in which the Board was requested to make available to the Commission the sum of \$27,723.68 from the total amount of \$178,000.00, appropriated by the General Assembly of 1937, for the restoration of deductions of 1933 from salary rates of State employees.

The Board decided that the request could not be complied with, because of the fact that the Board had not made any allocations of the appropriation of \$178,000 to Departments whose operating expenses were appropriated out of income of such Departments, or Special Funds; that it was evidently the intention of the Legislature that the salaries scheduled for the employees of the State Roads Commission in the Budget for that Commission, as set forth in the Appropriation Bill, were not to be exceeded, except in accordance with the Contingent Appropriations, subject to the approval of the Governor, appended to the Budget of the Commission, and further, that there are no funds remaining in the appropriation of \$178,000 which could be made available to the State Roads Commission, even if the obstacles already mentioned to the application of this Restoration Fund to the salaries of employees of the State Roads Commission did not exist.

The Board considered request submitted by Montrose School for Girls that a wage of 75¢ per hour be established for Carpenters' Helpers, in connection with the construction of a new building at the School.

The request was approved.

A letter from Mr. Joseph L. Faisant, Clerk of the Works on the project at Rosewood State Training School and Montrose School for Girls, asking that he be allowed travelling expenses, was considered.

The Board disapproved the request, stating that it was known at the time Mr. Faisant accepted the position that it would be necessary for him to take care of his own expenses, and that there were no funds available other than the salary provided for the position.

The Board approved a Budget Amendment, dated February 21st, 1938, submitted by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, involving the transfer of funds from expense items to salary items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Secretary.